

# Andrea Norris Co-Authors STRIDES Initiative Feature for NIH's Office of Extramural Research Blog

Friday, May 14, 2021

In May 2021, CIT Director and NIH Chief Information Officer Andrea Norris co-wrote a [guest blog post](#) for NIH's Office of Extramural Research on cloud computing, big data, and how the [STRIDES Initiative](#) is an integral part of advancing NIH discovery.

The article, titled, "[Enhancing Data Access and Analysis in the Cloud Advances NIH-Supported Discovery](#)," emphasizes the challenges that researchers face while working with large biomedical datasets, often siloed in nature, and highlights what NIH is doing to alleviate this concern.

The NIH STRIDES Initiative, short for [Science and Technology Research Infrastructure for Discovery, Experimentation, and Sustainability](#), aims to harness computational tools and cloud computing in an easy and cost-effective way that accelerates biomedical discovery. CIT is responsible for managing the STRIDES Initiative on behalf of the entire NIH community.

The other authors included the NIH's Director of the National Library of Medicine (NLM) **Patricia Flatley Brennan, RN, PhD, FAAN**, NIH's Associate Director for Data Science and Director of the NIH Office of Data Science Strategy **Susan Gregurick, PhD**, and NIH's Deputy Director for Extramural Research **Dr. Michael Lauer**.

"These cloud computing services should make using data from NIH-funded research more accessible to researchers in a more timely and cost-effective way," wrote Norris, Flatley Brennan, Gregurick, and Lauer. "We also hope that, working together with the research community, a [robust](#), interconnected ecosystem can be created that reduces barriers to generating, analyzing, and sharing research data. By moving data to the cloud, we can maximize our investment in research, while also strengthening the transparency, rigor, and reproducibility of our supported science."

To read the full blog post, visit the [Office of Extramural Research website](#).

